

## Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 NRC-07 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OMB-01 /113 W

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R 102310Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9884

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1937

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, NZ, US

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON  
NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: WELLINGTON 1919

1. ON JULY 9 FOLLOWING BRIEF VISIT TO NZ BY AUSTRALIAN  
MOD MORRISON, NZ MOD FRASER WAS INTERVIEWED ON TV  
REGARDING VISITS BY US NUCLEAR POWERED AND ARMED  
WARSHIPS (FULL TRANSCRIPT POUCHED EA/ANP). INTERVIEW  
CAME ON HEELS OF PM ROWLING'S PRESS STATEMENT (REFTTEL)  
THAT GNZ WAS REVIEWING ITS POLICY ON NPW VISITS.

2. INTRODUCTION TO FRASER INTERVIEW INCLUDED TWO  
ADDITIONAL JULY 9 COMMENTS FROM PM ROWLING NOT  
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO  
WHETHER GNZ WAS GOING TO ALLOW NUCLEAR WARSHIPS INTO  
PORTS, ROWLING SAID, "THERE IS NO PRESENT PLAN TO CHANGE  
THE EXISTING POLICY, BUT BECAUSE OF CHANGING LAWS OF  
COMPENSATION AGREED TO BY THE USG--WHICH PROVIDE COVER  
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FOR ANY ACCIDENT IN ANY PORT WHICH MIGHT OCCUR AS A

RESULT OF A FAULT ON A NUCLEAR-PROPELLED VESSEL--WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FURTHER CONSIDER OUR PRESENT POLICY OF PROHIBITION." ASKED IF GNZ COULD CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IF IT DID ACCEPT NPW VISITS, ROWLING REPLIED, "THE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE DOES NOT IMPLY THE NON-USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE AS UNDERSTOOD BY THE CANADIANS. THE NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IS APPLICABLE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONRY AND WEAPON-TESTING."

3. IN HIS INTERVIEW FRASER STATED AMERICANS "PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLY, REFUSE TO DISCLOSE WHICH OF THEIR SHIPS CARRY NUCLEAR ARMS, AND WHICH DO NOT", AND THAT NZ THEREFORE WOULDN'T KNOW IF US NPWS WERE NUCLEAR ARMED. ASKED IF NZ WOULD INSIST ON BEING TOLD WHETHER VISITING SHIPS WERE CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, FRASER SAID "I THINK WE'VE GOT TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT THIS. ALTHOUGH NEW ZEALAND HAS STOOD VERY FIRM IN REGARD TO A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE, NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, AND CERTAINLY IDEALLY, IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF WE COULD BECOME ISOLATIONISTS. BUT REALISTICALLY WE CAN'T, AND I THINK WE'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED...TO VIEW THE WHOLE SITUATION QUITE REALISTICALLY, BUT FIRST OF ALL, THERE ARE SOME CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE THAT DOOR IS COMPLETELY OPEN."

4. FRASER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF AUSTRALIA ALLOWED NPW VISITS, THIS WOULD HAVE BEARING ON NZ ATTITUDE, NOTED THAT THE "AUSTRALIANS ARE FAIRLY WELL ADVANCED WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTING", AND THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD BE HAVING TALKS WITH USG IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. FRASER DOUBTED A CONTINUED GNZ REFUSAL TO ALLOW NPW VISITS WOULD JEOPARDIZE ANZUS. HE NOTED, "IN ANY FAMILY THERE IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT TO HAVE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION," AND HE THOUGHT NEW ZEALAND'S VIEWS WERE RESPECTED BY USG. FRASER DOUBTED PRESENCE OF NPWS WOULD MAKE NEW ZEALAND AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC TARGET. "I WOULDN'T ENVISAGE THAT HALF THE AMERICAN FLEET WOULD NECESSARILY WANT TO SHIP UP IN NEW ZEALAND WATERS."

5. ON JUNE 10 ROWLING, AGAIN QUERIED BY THE PRESS, SAID NZ AS A TRADING NATION COULD NOT AFFORD TO "SLAM THE DOORS"

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ON THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS TO VISIT PORTS BUT THE GNZ AT PRESENT HAD NO INTENTION OF LIFTING ITS BAN. HE NOTED THAT IF NUCLEAR SAFETY MEASURES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND ECONOMICS OF OPERATION COULD BE ASSURED, MERCHANTMEN NO DOUBT WOULD GO NUCLEAR. HE SAID NZ HAD MADE PLAIN TO THE US THAT IF CIRCUMSTANCES WE##,C3 QJV)\*0(>5)"((QFFP"/PM CYT!";6)6



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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